

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

### **Implementation Plan for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Revised July 1, 2015**

In recognizing that Missouri children have the right to adequate and effective representation in child welfare cases, the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit provides the following as a plan for implementation of the guardian ad litem standards.

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit shall disseminate the standards on its court website, the local bars' websites as available, and keep a copy in the circuit clerk's office of each county and in the court administrator's office. Each division that addresses family court division matters shall be provided with a copy of the standards for reference when needed.
2. The judicial officer of each division shall select and appoint guardians ad litem for appropriate cases from a list that is developed of qualified attorneys. The list shall be kept by the court administrator of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and the clerk of the family court division of the circuit court.
3. Qualifications for Appointment
  - a. Local Court Rules 22 and 68.7 set forth the requirements for a guardian ad litem.
  - b. Licensed to practice law in Missouri in a proceeding governed by the Uniform Child Custody Act.
  - c. Qualified pursuant to guardian ad litem standards promulgated pursuant to section 484.302, RSMo.
  - d. Standards with Comments for guardian ad litem – the attached Supreme Court standards set forth the standards for appointment and service of guardian ad litem and specifies training for guardian ad litem as follows:

The court shall not appoint a lawyer to serve as guardian ad litem until the lawyer has completed eight hours of continuing legal education devoted to guardian ad litem training. Thereafter, to continue to be appointed as a guardian ad litem, a lawyer shall complete three hours of continuing legal education devoted to guardian ad litem training annually. . . .

. . . Any continuing legal education required by this standard shall not be completed by self study. In addition, the program sponsor shall obtain approval of the program as guardian ad litem training from the presiding judge in a circuit where the training is offered. Completion of the training hours shall be documented by an affidavit or other evidence filed with the appointing court by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. (Effective 9/1/11).

4. The list of approved guardians ad litem shall be maintained by the court administrator of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and the circuit clerk of each county.
5. Guardian ad litem training may be provided by any qualified entity approved by The Missouri Bar for providing continuing legal education training and shall be accredited by the Judicial Education Committee.
6. An affidavit showing proof of training shall be submitted to the court administrator's office of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit on or before July 31 of each year or as provided by the guardian ad litem standards. This application shall also acknowledge that the guardian ad litem has reviewed the guardian ad litem standards.
7. The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will communicate training requirements for compliance of guardians ad litem as required by the guardian ad litem standards and who the application and certificates from training should be submitted to by posting the information on the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit's website, the local county bars' website as available, and posting the information at the Boone and Callaway circuit clerk's offices.
8. The local rules and process have been reviewed, and no modification in either is necessary at the present time to effectively implement this plan.
9. The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit shall review this plan annually to determine the need for modifications necessary to assure the continued effectiveness of the guardian ad litem standards.